

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Incidentally Mr. Koning recorded several Mallard, which are very uncommon on this side as well as 2 Common Shelduck (*Tadorna*

*tadorna*) on this visit on the lakes near Rajkot and Jasdan and the Bhadar Dam near Gondal.

THE PALACE,  
JASDAN,  
February 7, 1975.

SHIVRAJKUMAR KHACHER

7. COMMON TEAL *ANAS CRECCA* MIGRATING ACROSS THE HIMALAYAS

On 14th May 1975, while going up the Solang Valley from Manali, Himachal Pradesh, we were met by a group of trainees from the Western Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Manali, on their way down from high altitude training at the head of the valley. They showed me a live duck of the above species which had been picked up exhausted at about 11,000' below the snowfields. The bird showed its flight feathers badly abraded but apart

from this had no external signs of injuries. For a week before the weather had been bad with a wind blowing down the valley. Quite apparently, the bird was unable to cross the snow range which stands to the north at the head of the valley. This further shows that ducks do fly across the high ranges at considerable altitude and this particular bird must have been one of a flock on its way to Central Asia across the western parts of Tibet.

C/o. WWF-INDIA,  
HORNBILL HOUSE,  
S. BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,  
BOMBAY 400 023,  
June 21, 1975.

LAVKUMAR KHACHER

8. DEMOISELLE CRANES NEAR POONA

A flock of about 1000 Demoiselle Cranes was first sighted on 15th January 1975, on the banks of Veer Dam reservoir about 45 miles south-east of Poona City. There were reports in the press that flocks of large, stork-like birds were damaging the crops in that area. But when we reached the spot early morning we could not spot a single bird. However, black specks suddenly appeared in a clear, blue sky late in the morning, becoming ever larger as they began descending. Presently the whole flock slowly circled downwards,

lowered their legs and gently touched ground. More and more flocks soon appeared from all directions and touched ground one by one. Within half an hour more than a thousand birds had assembled on the southern bank and some scattered flocks could be seen on the distant northern bank. Each flock consisted of from 30 to 50 birds.

As we watched the birds from a distance of about 150 metres, some birds were seen just standing in toe-deep water, some trying to pick something up from the sand, some